



# CONN-AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**“Centered in Christ”**

**May/June 2024**

***The month of May is the month of our Blessed Mother, and during which, we celebrate Mothers’ Day. As I reflect on motherhood, I cannot help thinking that of all the places for God to begin a new life, He chose to have that happen within a mother’s body. As the creator, He could have had it happen anywhere. How precious that ‘space’ must be to grow a human being, where it will be safe and cared for by his/her mother!***

***When God brought Jesus into the world, He chose Mary to provide that safe and nurturing space for His Son. Additionally, He made ‘Honor thy father and mother’ a commandment; one of only ten. He conveys the importance of the role of a parent.***

***He takes what He created and places that gift in the care of someone chosen to ‘shepherd’ that child, including parents who adopt or foster a child. God calls us in many ways. What a gift and what a blessing! Happy Mother’s Day to all who take on the role of parenting. God finds glory in who you are and what you do for His creation. May all the decisions you make regarding your child, be done with the knowledge that this child is first and foremost God’s child. For best results, refer to the Blessed Mother. She ‘done’ good. I have no doubt He is pleased that we honor His mother.***

## **Ascension Thursday Mass**

On May 9<sup>th</sup> the entire student body will be attending Mass at I.C. church for Ascension Thursday Mass. This is a holy day when we celebrate the ascension of Jesus into Heaven. We hope you will join us at 10:00.





## **National Day of Prayer**

Each year on the first Thursday in May, the United States celebrates a National Day of Prayer. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be doing a special prayer at the school, in addition to the current ones we do, praying for His peace to permeate into the hearts of everyone in the world, especially those who hate. We hope you will join us in this prayer.



## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Several of our second graders will be making their first Holy Communion in May. This is truly a wonderful time for them, as Catholics believe the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus Christ. The Catholic church teaches that, 'the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian Life'.

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you." Matthew 26: 26-29

Congratulations to our First Communicants: Camilla Allen, Kennedy Broadwater, Alex Burd, Andrew Davis, Colt Hominsky, Jasmine Pashakarnis, Hannah Patsch, Aleeah Richter, and Lana Robbins.



## **Fine Arts Fest**



On Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, our students will present to you our Fine Arts Fest, which includes an art exhibit and a musical program. The children have been working hard all year for this. Please join us at 5:00 in the hallway for the art exhibit. We will then call everyone to the gymnasium for the musical presentation at 6:00. We thank our art teachers Mrs. Hoffer (grades 2 through 6), Mrs. Lohr (grade 1), Mrs. Colvin and Mrs. Sparks (K), and Mrs. Spotts (PK). We also thank our music teachers, Mrs. Hlebechuk (grades PK – 4<sup>th</sup>) and Mrs. Gretz (grades 5 and 6) for all their hard work this year.



## **Golf Outing**

Please help get the word out about our Golf Outing, which is on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Pleasant Valley Golf Club. It really is an outing that golfers have raved about. Every golfer gets a door prize, a sleeve of golf balls, a goodie bag created by our students, in addition to what is naturally provided at an

outing. If you know of any golfers, this is for them. Also, if you know a business that would like to be a sponsor, please let us know. We can reach out to them, if you prefer not to. Please see the included brochure for details. Any family who donates a minimum of a \$10 value toward the golf outing will receive a dress down pass for each of their children. This would include providing a golfer, a sponsor, or a raffle prize. Thank you for your support.



### **Marathon Day**

All year long our students patiently wait for the Marathon Day. This is truly a fun experience for all. It is one of our main fundraisers that satisfy a portion of our budget, in order to keep our tuition to an affordable cost. Our goal is \$10,000. If the students meet their goal, they will receive an additional one hour of recess time on a beautiful day in May. We thank you in advance for your support of this event. All money is due by May 9. Our awards ceremony will be held on May 16.



### **Reading Competition**

We have three sixth graders who will represent Conn-Area Catholic School in the Diocese of Greensburg Reading Competition: Xavier Bechtold, Foster Gartley, and Cullette Gross. They have been busy reading books all year in preparation for the competition on May 1<sup>st</sup> held at Aquinas Academy. We are very proud of them. Thank you to Mrs. Gretz for preparing them for this competition.



### **Grandbuddy Breakfast**

It has been a long tradition that our third graders host their grandbuddies for a light breakfast. This year's event will be held on May 13. Mrs. Hlebechuk does a wonderful job preparing the students for the program they present to their guests. It is a beautiful event.



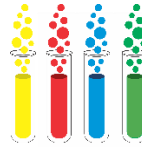
### **Preschool Program**

Our preschoolers will be putting on their end-of-the-year program for their families to show them some great things they have learned. These little ones have come a long way since day one. We are so proud of them. Thank you to Mrs. Spotts and her aides, Mrs. Scarry and Mrs. Gray for all the work they have done preparing them for this event, which will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30.



### **Final PTG Meeting**

Our final PTG meeting will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. It is at this meeting that we also do our May Crowning Prayer Service, conducted by our 6<sup>th</sup> graders and assisted by our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. We hope you will join us as we wrap up the year. Thank you to our PTG officers for all the work they did this year. We could not have done it without them. Grades 2 and 4 are responsible for donating one dozen cookies. Thank you.



### **Einstein Award**

Mrs. Kostley, our science teacher, began the Einstein Award five years ago. This is awarded to the students who have shown exceptional ability in science and work ethics. This year's recipients are Colten Bell, Addison Casini, and Conel Stevenson. Congratulations, to all three.



### **Teacher Appreciation**

May 6<sup>th</sup> is National Teacher Appreciation Day. Our teachers work very hard because they care very much about the progress and achievements of your children. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratefulness to having them at Conn-Area Catholic. They are passionate about their work and truly want to help your children succeed. God bless them.



### **Congratulations to our Sixth Graders**

The end of the school year is always hardest when we have to say farewell to our sixth graders. They have been a great group of kids who will do very well, as they move on to junior high school. Their last day of school is on May 24. We wish them much happiness and the commitment to keep Jesus first and foremost in their lives. May God always bless them.



### **Field Trip**

In May, our third and fourth graders will be heading to Fort Ligonier for a fun and educational field trip. Grades first and second will be going to Living Treasures. Our fifth and sixth graders attended the Holocaust Museum in Pittsburgh in April. Kindergarten students enjoyed a trip to the pumpkin farm back in the Fall. So many places to go; so much to learn!



### **Hatch Day**

We are expecting to see and hear some 'chicks' in our school around May 6<sup>th</sup>, as eighteen eggs are currently be cared for in an incubator. Check out our Facebook page around that time, as we will be sure to post photos. Thank you to science teacher, Mrs. Kostley for organizing this experience for our students.



### **Last Day of School**

Our sixth graders will have their last day of school on Friday, May 24. Our preschoolers will have their last day of school on May 28. It has been wonderful to see how much they have grown. We are so proud of them. All other grades will have an 11:15 early dismissal on May 29<sup>th</sup>, after celebrating our final Mass of the school year. We hope you will join us. There will be no cafeteria service on May 28. Students will need to pack a lunch that day.



### **Summer Programs**

Please keep in mind that we do have summer programs.

- Summer Chapter Book Club – for students going into grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> (see enclosed form)
- Summer Reading Challenge – for all students (see enclosed form)
- IXL Challenge – for all students who currently have an account, we encourage you to continue to gather skill points in ELA and Math, throughout the summer months
- Math Facts Practice for the Principal's Challenge – be the first to do this in August!

***On behalf of Fr. Paul, our board president, the faculty and staff, we wish you all a very wonderful summer break. Stay safe, healthy, and connected to your faith. Go to church, to better know the Lord, and thereby serve Him to the fullest extent possible.***

***Thank you for a wonderful year.***



**God bless you.**